

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CPR-01 SAM-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 SCCT-01 USSS-00 /067 W

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R 240245Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT'S LIFE

1. MEDIA REACTION TO THIRD ATTEMPT IN SEVENTEEN DAYS ON PRESIDENT'S LIFE HAS BEEN INTENSE. NHK NINE PM NEWS SEPTEMBER 23 CARRIED VIDEOTAPE SATELLITE COVERAGE OF INCIDENT AND WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT COMMENTARY ON US MOOD. SEPTEMBER 23 EVENING PAPERS, IN ADDITION TO DESCRIPTIVE STORY, COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON PROLIFERATION OF FIRE-ARMS IN US-A SITUATION JAPANESE ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND- AND DIFFICULTIES POSED FOR US LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. PAPERS ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF SAFETY OF EMPEROR WHILE IN US, NOTING, HOWEVER THAT SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION FOR PRESIDENT HAD BEEN BEEFED UP SINCE SACRAMENTO INCIDENT AND THAT US AUTHORITIES ARE CONFIDENT OF ABILITY TO PROTECT EMPEROR. MEDIA HAS ALSO SPECULATED THAT GOJ MAY ASK FOR INCREASED PROTECTION FOR EMPEROR.

2. COMMENT. IN CONTRAST TO SACRAMENTO INCIDENT, MEDIA FOR FIRST TIME HAS DIRECTLY LINKED ATTEMPTS ON PRESIDENT'S LIFE WITH SAFETY OF EMPEROR. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUGGESTIONS FROM MEDIA THAT VISIT BE CANCELLED, BUT LEVEL OF CONCERN HAS CLEARLY-AND NATURALLY-INCREASED.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO13458
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750330-0622
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509106/baaaagbk.tel
Line Count: 46
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971023
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, JA, PINT, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006